

and application of those reform efforts have been debated by Congress ever since—annually, emotionally, and with futility.

So, for the last 25 years, Congressional campaigns have been conducted under a set of rules that have become unenforceable (through systematic defunding of the Federal Elections Commission), weakened (by court decisions), and yet located at the heart of the American distrust with elected officials. The Harris Poll showed us earlier this year that 85 percent of Americans believe special interests have more influence than voters on this institution. Who can fault them when total campaign spending has risen from \$115 million in 1975, to \$450 million in 1985, and almost certainly to over \$1 billion in this election? Is it any wonder that voter turnout is at an all-time low, and that respect for Members of this institution seems to rise only when we are not in session?

In my relatively short time in Congress, I have seen how campaigns are financed, and how that distorts the decision making process. We would not have nearly the number of people who die each year from tobacco related deaths if it weren't for the influence of tobacco money in politics. I see negative ads from anonymous sources tearing at the fabric of our society. I see honest men and women trying to buck a system that distorts and creates negative consequences. And I see my colleagues, including Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MEEHAN and others, devoting enormous time and creativity to meaningful reforms that don't tilt in favor of Republicans or Democrats, don't unduly help incumbents, but does cut down the pursuit of campaign money.

We now know how cynically the deck has been stacked yet again against reform. Those who look at the current system and see nothing wrong have a rule that permits them to call up 258 non-germane amendments, essentially talking reform to death. Those who argue that we need more money in politics are using their control over the calendar to prevent a House bill—should one miraculously pass—from reaching the Senate before adjournment.

Despite these shenanigans, Mr. Chairman, we are not going to give up. The opponent of reform may succeed in pushing campaign finance reform into the 106th Congress, but reform is not going to die. The American people know the system is broken, and at the very least, we are going to give them a series of votes so after all the debate, after all the stalling tactics and parliamentary maneuvering, it will be perfectly clear who squandered this opportunity, and why.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PICKERING) having assumed the chair, Mr. GIBBONS, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PICKERING). The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule 1, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill today: S. 2282, to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2183.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POMEROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MINGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOX addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. FOWLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 7:00 p.m. on account of physical reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEVIN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMEROY, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MINGE, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND, today, for 5 minutes.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. NORTHUP) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, July 15 and 16, for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida, July 15, for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, today, for 5 minutes.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEVIN) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. KIND.

Mr. FARR of California.

Mr. MILLER of California.